

Subject:Re: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

Date:Mon, 25 Oct 2021 11:21:38 -0700

From:David Holtzman

Reply-To:

Organization:Holtzman Consulting

To:Scott Ferguson, Angeline Soon , Larry Boden , Aaron Hrenak , Michael Gayheart

CC:Steve Steinberg, Lingat, Lorayne , Kerr, Twila, Norman Wong

Hello Scott Ferguson and ESRI people,

I received your email below as an attachment to another email.

I'm writing to ask how much it would cost to upgrade what you call "your solution" below to match the important functionality of the demo version of the "solution" provided to the public and the LA County CRC.

To me, the replacement of official Census geography with fabricated "redistricting units" ("RDUs") feels like a bait-and-switch.

The bare minimum that I'm looking for is the inclusion of "California_2020" in the software's (services? layers? selection? identify?) database, and having full census geography (including blocks, block groups, and tracts) populate the Selection Level dropdown and functionality. Problematic screenshots here:

How much would that cost?

To me, the current "solution" does not appear to meet the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors mandate under the state law that established the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC). Part of the board's mandate is as follows:

"(7) The board shall take all steps necessary to **ensure that a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting**, and that procedures are in place to provide to the public ready access to redistricting data and computer

software equivalent to what is available to the commission members.” [Cal. Elec. Code § 21534(c)(7), emphasis added.]

I can’t imagine that the database would be complete without all of the official U.S. Census geography for the county and the Census’ associated data!

In addition, I and members of the public have asked for the inclusion in the database of some non-census data, such as CalEnviroScreen’s scores for L.A. County. A state agency, OEHHA, has made the CalEnviroScreen scores available by Census Tract, but (obviously) not by RDU, in easily downloadable format. If those scores were included as attribute fields in the (identify? district window column?) database, exportable for users’ analyses, that would be great!

So, please also provide a price estimate for including CalEnviroScreen’s scores (Version 3 or Draft Version 4) by Census Tract in an upgraded “solution” here.

Thank you,

- David A. Holtzman, M.P.H., J.D.

Commissioner

County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission
(Writing for myself, not the whole commission.)

On 10/19/2021 8:33 AM, Scott Ferguson wrote:

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Hi Norman –

Unfortunately, Census blocks are not included in the geographic hierarchy for your solution. Since this was a special case with RDU’s being the atomic unit for drawing boundaries, the application does not have the ability to include both Census blocks and RDU’s to build plans upon. Your user will only need to perform the same steps as you did prior to the upgrade. If the user already has their plan in shapefile format, they can import it and perform the visual comparison (to fill in the gaps) in the map view. If the user chooses to send the plan (in shapefile format with census blocks) directly to LA County, then you would have to perform the same process as noted here.

Hope that helps...

Thanks,
Scott

From: Angeline Soon
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Norman Wong ; Larry Boden ; Aaron Hrenak ; Michael Gayheart ; Scott Ferguson
Cc: Steve Steinberg; Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

+ Scott.

Hi Norm,
Acknowledging we got this email and we will review and follow up.

From: Norman Wong
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Angeline Soon; Larry Boden; Aaron Hrenak; Michael Gayheart
Cc: Steve Steinberg; Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

Hello ESRI Team,

A question came up regarding the ability to work at the block level.

1. Is there the ability to do that given our current setup with RDUs-communities? I think I provided Larry with an RDU-block crosswalk/equivalency file earlier on for reference but it's also attached here.
2. If so, is there the ability to turn on the block level for users of a specific role and leave everyone else (Citizens) with our normal 2 level RDU-communities layers to work with?
3. If so, will this require a complete re-load of the data schema and involve users having to re-save their work (similar to what happened when we switched from census-block groups-tracts to RDUs-communities? We obviously don't want this!

We also welcome any alternative solution(s) that could work with the scenario that Laura Daly provided.

Norman Wong
Senior GIS Analyst
County of Los Angeles ISD Enterprise GIS (eGIS) Group

From: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Laura Daly
Cc: Kirk Samuels; Jacky Contreras; Aaron Robertson; Norman Wong
Subject: Re: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

Hi, Laura—if you have the files readily available, please send them over. We can also set up a time to meet via Zoom to co-work on solving the issue, including potentially correcting the misassigned groups. Norman is off today, but he likely has more insight on the backend which could provide a more efficient solution.

Best,
Thai

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From: Laura Daly
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:32:35 PM
To: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Kirk Samuels; Jacky Contreras; Aaron Robertson; Norman Wong
Subject: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

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Got it, thank you for the information!

If we aren't able to access census blocks, we're not going to be able to import our plan accurately. Is there another way we can submit our district plan to the commission? Can we send a shapefile, Maptitude layer, block equivalency file, something else? We have pdf maps as well, but assume the commission would also like data for ease of review.

Thanks!

Laura Daly
(she/her/hers)
Research & Data Analyst

From: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Laura Daly
Cc: Kirk Samuels; Jacky Contreras; Aaron Robertson; Norman Wong
Subject: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

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Great question, Laura. From my understanding, the Block level has been disabled because some users without quality broadband were not able to open the software properly with so many geographical units loading. As of now the RDUs is the main geographical unit and it has already been split to account for blockgroups than span multiple cities.

Norman, would we be able to enable the Block level unit for super users and potentially include Laura as a superuser to help with this issue?

Best,
Thai

From: Laura Daly
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Kirk Samuels; Jacky Contreras ; Aaron Robertson; Norman Wong
Subject: RE: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

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One quick clarification--I need to be able to manually reassign blocks within a block group, not just the whole block group. Because sometimes we have block groups split between districts, just interacting with block groups is not going to solve this issue. Is there a way to reassign blocks?

Thank you! And thank you for cc'ing Norman for additional help.

Laura Daly
(she/her/hers)
Research & Data Analyst
From: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Laura Daly
Cc: Kirk Samuels; Jacky Contreras; Aaron Robertson; Norman Wong
Subject: [EXT]--RE: Online District Map Issue

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Hi, Laura—

Thank you for reaching out. I am CC'ing Norman Wong from ISD also in case he has additional input I may be missing.

In the latest software update, ESRI changed the geographical unit to RDUs (Redistricting Units) which is near equivalent to Blockgroups but split those that span across multiple cities. As discussed during the public meetings, they did this at the request of the Commissioners who believe that this would be more efficient and easier to use for users without extensive mapping background. As you noticed, I believe if you import the shapefile with different underlying geographies using the import function will create some issues. The workaround is to add the shapefile through the "Add Content" function under the "Create" tab. This will add it as a reference layer. You may then need to manually reassign those block groups that were misassigned.

Norman, do you have advice for Laura on how to best address the issue in a more effective and efficient manner?

Best,
Thai

From: Laura Daly
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Thai V. Le <TLe@crc.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Kirk Samuels ; Jacky Contreras ; Aaron Robertson
Subject: Online District Map Issue

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I'm attempting to import my own district shapefile into the county portal using the ESRI online tool. While my shapefile import is successful, it seems that the underlying default geography is census block groups instead of census blocks. Because we built our plan using census blocks we sometimes have split a block group between districts, allocating some blocks within a block group to one district, and some blocks in the same block group to another. This means that the online tool is randomly assigning the full block group to one of the districts, rather than parsing out the blocks within that block group. I've attached screenshots of an example around LAX.

I've been looking through the documentation online but can't find any way to change the fundamental geography to block instead of block group, nor does there seem to be a way to change how the shapefile is imported. Could you please let me know how to resolve this issue?

Thank you! And thank you for your time,

Laura Daly
(she/her/hers)
Research & Data Analyst

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David A. Holtzman, M.P.H., J.D.

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David A. Holtzman, M.P.H., J.D.

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